COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Navy Carrier Safety Panel Submits Recommendations

The Navy Aircraft Carrier Safety Review Panel has recommended that crewmen be reequipped with improved personal survival gear for use during shipboard fires.

Panel Director Adm. James S. Russell (ret.) told an Oct. 18 Pentagon news conference that suffocation from carbon and carbon dioxide caused by burning fuel is one problem area. He said it can be overcome by modifying current gas masks issued to all carrier personnel with portable "walk around" oxygen bottles to quickly plug in when the air is fouled by smoke.

The veteran carrier officer, selected by the Chief of Naval Operations in mid-August to visit the Western Pacific for a first-hand look, also recommended:

• Improvement in flight deck fire-fighting equipment, some massive fire suppression system that could douse the flames almost immediately by pushing a button.

• Improvement in aviation ordnance handling, such as the new flare case bottoms that dump flares overside into the sea if accidentally ignited.

Adm. Russell stressed his recommendations were not directed specifically to recent carrier fires aboard the USS Forrestal and Oriskany in Southeast Asian waters. He conceded, however, these recommendations were made in light of this experience and their implementation would overcome fires of this nature.

Military Pay Legislation Passes House Committee

Military pay raise bill passed its first Congressional test in mid-October, gaining House Armed Services Committee approval by a 40-0 vote.

Legislation sent to the floor for final House action calls for a 5.6 percent base pay raise to equal the 4.5 percent pay hike for federal civilian employees also under Congressional consideration.

Language of the House bill also calls for an Oct. 1 effective date.

Congressional steps remaining are final action by the whole House expected in late October and both committee and Senate floor action following House passage.

Future Congressional action could include a Senate-House conference, should there be differences.

ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES—RAdm. Kenneth L. Veth, Commander, U.S. Naval Forces in Vietnam, congratulates Lt. Gen. Chae Myun Shin, Commander, Republic of Korea forces in Vietnam, on the occasion of the ROK forces' second year in the Vietnam conflict. Ceremonies were held at headquarters of the Free World Military Assistance Organization in Saigon.

Military Reservation Air Fares Suspended During Holiday Periods

Military reservation fares which allow servicemen on leave to travel on civilian airlines at two thirds the usual fare will not apply during the Christmas and New Year holidays, Department of Defense officials have learned.

A majority of civilian air carriers have advised DOD special rates will not apply during the holiday period because of the high rate of travel.

Military Reservation Fares will not apply during the following times:

0001 Dec. 15	through	2400 Dec. 16
1200 Dec. 17	"	1200 Dec. 18
0001 Dec. 20	"	1200 Dec. 23
1200 Dec. 24	"	1200 Dec. 25
1200 Dec. 29	"	1200 Dec. 30
1200 Dec. 31	"	2400 Jan. 3

Additionally, Defense Department officials have cautioned servicemen that travel by Military Standby Fares during the holidays will be difficult, since unreserved seats will be extremely limited.

Washington Memos

SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT number will be included on all Army orders involving military personnel effective Jan. 1, 1968. Orders already published or issued with an effective date on or after Jan. 1, 1968 need not be amended solely for the purpose of complying with the just-issued directive, Army said.

AIR FORCE HAS authorized some of its commissaries to hold inventories twice a year instead of monthly. AF commands will designate one commissary each to make tests of the twice-a-year closing. In these stores, AF shoppers will have 10 more days each year for shopping. Trial, which begins this month, runs until next July. Book inventories will be conducted in months stores are not closed.

REPRESENTATIVES FROM ARMY, Navy, Air Force and National Aeronautics and Space Administration will meet Oct. 31 through Nov. 2 at Naval Air Station, Miramar, Calif., to present information on protective equipment. Some of the subjects covered will be spatial disorientation, helmet status, pressure garments, escape systems and flash blindness protection.

ABOUT 300 OF the 1,085 Marine Corps captains recently selected for major were promoted in October, according to Marine officials, and the remainder will be promoted before the end of the fiscal year.

FIRST U.S.-JAPANESE Santama Symposium on Community Affairs was held at Tachikawa AB, Oct. 13. Symposium was designed to bring Santama Region civic leaders and Kanto Base Command military officials together for exchange of ideas and general familiarization of interrelationships between military and civilian communities in area west of Tokyo.

MILITARY AIRLIFT COMMAND now has 17 weekly aeromedical airlift flights from Southeast Asia to the United States. Latest addition leaves Da Nang AB, Vietnam, with stops at Clark AB, Philippines; Anderson AB, Guam and Hickam AFB, Hawaii before arriving at Travis AFB, Calif.

NAVY SURGEON GENERAL VAdm. Robert B. Brown has been elected second vice president of American College of Surgeons. He and other officers elected will be installed at 1968 Clinical Congress next October.

FOURTH AREA IN Red Sea where water reaches a temperature of 133 degrees fahrenheit has been discovered by Coast and Geodetic Survey ship Oceanographer. "Hot spots" are usually found below depths of 6,000 feet and salt content of water is almost eight times ocean's normal 3.6 percent. Scientists aboard Oceanographer collected almost 200 gallons of water from area and will analyze it in an attempt to determine causes of high temperature.

ARMY AVIATION Materiel Command has awarded a $5.99 million contract to Lycoming Division, Avco Corp., Stratford, Conn., for production and delivery of T53-L13 aircraft engines required in support of Army's UH-1 Iroquois helicopter program.

DR. JANUS POPPE, Academic Dean, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and former faculty member at Industrial College of Armed Forces, Ft. McNair, Washington, D.C., received Department of Army's Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service during ceremonies at Ft. McNair, Oct. 12. Dean Poppe was cited for exceptional performance of duty as Professor of Economics in Industrial College's Office of Academic Plans and Research from September 1964 to September 1966.

AIR FORCE'S CAREER Motivation School at Lackland AFB, Tex., has graduated its first class. School's program is designed to halt continuing drop in reenlistments of first term airmen and provide training for selected NCOs in duties and responsibilities of career motivation advisor.

FORT JACKSON'S Golden Anniversary will be celebrated Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, during ceremonies sponsored by Columbia, S.C., Chamber of Commerce. An estimated 10,000 troops, consisting of Ft. Jackson personnel and members of local Army Reserve and National Guard units will participate in parade through downtown Columbia followed by an open house at Ft. Jackson. Heading list of guests will be Secretary of Army Stanley R. Resor.

MARINE CORPS Brig. Gen. Henry W. Hise assigned in October as Assistant Wing Commander, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, El Toro, Calif. He relieves Brig. Gen. Edward J. Doyle, who will be assigned in December to J-5 of the Joint Staff, Joint Chiefs of Staff.

ENGINEERING DIVISION of Office of Research and Systems of Military Management and Terminal Service will move to Ft. Eustis, Va., in early December. Division will be assigned to Transportation Engineering Agency. Move follows recent movement of Research and Analysis Division of Transportation Engineering Agency from its headquarters at Ft. Eustis to Williamsburg, Va.

NAVY DESTROYER TENDER USS Frontier has been awarded Battle Efficiency "E" Award following seven-month deployment in mid-Pacific area. RAdm. S. H. Moore, Commander, Cruiser-Destroyer Flotilla 7, presented award to USS Frontier.

MARINE AIR RESERVE Training Detachment of Norfolk, Va., has been awarded Navy's Minute Man Award for attaining 98 percent participation in DOD's Payroll Savings Plan. Unit topped all MARTC throughout nation.

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THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Background for Commanders

TRADE UNIONS ACTIVE IN SOUTH VIETNAM

Little is known abroad of the strength and vitality of the free trade union movement in South Vietnam and its active role in the country's nation-building and social welfare programs.

The largest of the unions is the *Confédération Viêtnamienne du Travail* (CVT). With quiet persistence, like the water buffalo it has chosen as its symbol, the CVT has gained for its members improved economic status, the right to bargain collectively and the right to strike. In the words of CVT President Tran Quoc Buu, the primary task of the trade union is to "serve as the working people's watchdog over the equitable distribution of the national wealth."

Tran Quoc Buu and his associates, who founded the CVT in 1950, originally were Viet Minh resistance fighters against the French colonial administration. They left the guerrilla forces when it became clear that the Communists had taken over control of the movement.

The CVT, which is affiliated with the International Federation of Christian Trade Unions, has now grown to more than 300,000 members grouped in five main federations. The largest single unit is the 70,000-member Tenant Farmers' Federation, followed by petroleum, plantation, fishery and transportation workers' federations. The smallest trade union affiliated with the CVT is the 60-member Swallows Nest Gatherers.

The nonsectarian and nonpolitical confederation cuts across religious, ethnic, regional and political lines and counts among its officers and members Vietnamese, Chinese, Cambodians and Indians.

CVT Objectives

The spirit of the CVT was summed up in a recent message by President Buu to free trade unionists around the world. He said:

"We want to build a country, like so many others are doing after decades and decades, even centuries, of colonial repression. We want to avoid the neocolonialism which is personified by the Communist aggression against our country. We seek no domination of any other country. We struggle for progress, for the people's welfare and for the forging of a balanced and mature nation.

"Please remember when you read of the battles in South Vietnam that it is our workers and their sons who are in the frontlines fighting with the same kind of patriotism that motivated the workers of Europe a generation ago when they fought the Nazi aggressors.

"And also please remember this: We do not merely talk about freedom. Our Confederation and its national and local unions practice this freedom every day because this is the true meaning of free trade unionism."

The CVT's social welfare program, established in 1962, provides free education for more than 1,000 children and adults; medical care; and training in vocational skills at 20 neighborhood social centers. The program is financed by the CVT's central welfare fund and with contributions from fraternal unions in other free nations; it stresses self-help and community improvement.

The Khanh Hoi center in Saigon's port area typifies the CVT's social welfare endeavors. Most of the families in the area were refugees from Viet Cong terrorism. Under CVT leadership, Khanh Hoi worker residents conducted a community membership drive to establish the center, which now houses a school, a medical dispensary and a community enter.

Refugee Aid Is Biggest Concern

The CVT's biggest concern has been to help refugee families who have been driven by Communist terrorists from their homes in rural Vietnam. The CVT provides rice and staples while the men look for jobs. And headquarters buildings have been turned into temporary refugee dormitories.

For members of the Tenant Farmers Union in the rural areas, the CVT has started agricultural development centers comprising cooperatives, community centers, schools, medial dispensaries and handicrats training shops. Credit unions and social service projects in the hamlets round out the CVT's welfare and self-help activities.

At the fifth National Congress of the CVT, held in Saigon in April 1967, President Buu told some 500 delegates and observers from fraternal labor organizations in Asia, Europe and the U.S.: "Ours is the story of a labor movement in a country which is fighting Communist aggression. . . .

"Visitors to South Vietnam are always surprised to learn that we have a labor movement, and, despite the Communists, a strong organization with branches throughout our country; that our workers and peasants are organized; that they can strike and that they do strike; that they bargain collectively with employers, domestic as well as foreign; that they manage worker restaurants, run kindergartens and organized education classes for workers. In short, we have a labor movement in South Vietnam which is free and independent."

Commenting on conditions in North Vietnam, President Buu asked: "Is there a trade union movement in Hanoi which is free of government domination? Is there a trade union movement which is allowed to bargain collectively with employers?" He then pointed out that strikes are punishable as a capital crime in North Vietnam and that 30,000 trade union members and organizers have fled to the South.

The trade union movement in South Vietnam still has a formidable task in raising and working standards of the country's wage earners. However, undeterred by war, it is making progress and extending its contacts with other free-world labor organizations.

R&D Firms Contract For Service Housing Study

Defense Department has decided to let modern research and development planners take a crack at devising ways to build cheaper and better military family housing units.

The first step of a three step program was announced by DOD Oct. 17 when three R&D firms signed exploratory contracts. The firms are: Carl Koch and Associates, Boston, Mass.; General Electric Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

"If the exploration and planning program yields promising results, a second stage of the overall program would be the building and testing of prototype units," the announcement said.

DOD said a possible third and last part of the program would be a long-range R&D effort to implement large scale production.

New Fire-Fighting Agent Sent to Carriers in RVN

Light Water and Purple K powder have been combined by Navy into a new fire-fighting agent and rushed to the three carriers operating in the Tonkin Gulf.

Purple K is a flame-quenching chemical powder and Light Water is self-descriptive, light enough to float on fuels. Together, these agents seal the surface of fuel with water so that it becomes fire-proof.

Navy is deploying the new system as a truck-mounted giant portable fire-extinguisher, reasoning that the first ship-board fire is always the most dangerous and that fog-foam systems mounted at catwalks are too slow to get into action.

During testing, fuel fires have been put out in 21 seconds by the new agent.

Three Light Water fire-fighting trucks have been assigned to each carrier. Two are for the flight deck, with the third positioned on the hangar deck.

NEW CHOPPER—Lt. Gen. Fred C. Weyand, Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, sits at the controls of the first operational Huey Cobra in Vietnam. It is the Army's first helicopter designed to give direct fire support to ground troops. It can be armed with miniguns, rockets and grenade launchers and can reach speeds up to 190 knots.

Board of Visitors Submits 1966 Report On Air Force Academy

The Board of Visitors to the Air Force Academy has submitted its 1966 report to President Johnson endorsing the Cadet Honor Code and urging continuation of its stringent demands.

The report was sent to the President with comments by the Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. Harold Brown and the Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara.

"The Air Force Academy is performing its mission effectively," the report stated, adding,"the outstanding performance of its graduates in Vietnam and other areas attests to the excellence of their education and training."

Headed by Gen. Emmett O'Donnell, Jr. (USAF-ret.), the board noted that the curriculum is well balanced between academic subjects on the one hand and military training and athletics on the other. It recommended that curriculum changes be introduced gradually and only after careful study.

C-141 All-Weather Landing System Approved

The Federal Aviation Administration has certified the all-weather landing system (AWLS) for the Air Force's new C-141 jet-powered "Starlifter" transport.

Developed jointly by the Air Force Systems Command and the FAA, the system will considerably increase the capability of the big cargo-troop carrier to make "pinpoint" landings during bad weather.

The AWLS can bring the 145-foot long, 316,000-pound Starlifter in for a landing within 12 feet of either side of the runway center line and within 300 feet of either side of a determined touchdown point.

Capable of landing the huge aircraft, even in "pea soup" fog, when bases or airports are equipped with adequate instrument landing systems, the AWLS can take the transport all the way to the ground automatically. However, the FAA certification does not authorize the system to operate for landings unless the pilot has a 100-foot ceiling.

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